



**Today:** Tuesday,  
February 12, 2008



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## Advanced Technology Academy buys Davenport University buildings

*By Jodi Rempala, Press & Guide Newspapers*

PUBLISHED: February 6, 2008

### DEARBORN

One of Dearborn's charter schools will be moving to a new location beginning in the fall.

Advertisement

Officials from Advanced Technology Academy (ATA) announced last week that they will be purchasing the 15-acre Davenport University site as well as the administration building.

Davenport University, which is leaving Dearborn for a new campus in Livonia, is located on Oakman Boulevard at Miller in the city's east end, just south of Michigan Avenue.

"This turn-key facility acquisition allows the Academy to significantly upgrade its educational offerings including the Ford Partnership for Advanced Studies (PAS) program," said Dr. Richard Schneider, president of the ATA board.

Advanced Technology Academy is the only school in the nation to fully implement the Ford PAS program as the cornerstone of its high school curriculum. This high tech facility will help us assure that every student leaves high school with the career pathway skills needed to succeed in

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college and the work place, according to Schneider.

"The new site will enable the development of a highly innovative and effective approach to early college education demonstrating that business-government partnerships do indeed work. For example, the academy will use its smart-boards, digital projectors, distance learning classroom, fiber optic network, and the Ranger closed circuit digital television system to give dual-enrolled students connection to Ford operations and suppliers for coordinated learning experiences as well as direct access to the Lake Superior State University (LSSU) campus in Sault Ste. Marie and University of Detroit Mercy," said Barry Hawthorne, executive director of ATA.

Hawthorne said ATA is an early college program where students can select key programs to study and earn college credit before they graduate high school.

In high school students can pursue fields like business, engineering, healthcare and technology. With good planning and strong focus, students can earn as many as 32 college credits from Lake Superior State University before graduating high school.

Ford Motor Co. was recently honored by the National Governors Association (NGA) as its first recipient of the NGA Public-Private Partnership Award for its sponsorship of the Ford PAS program. Advanced Technology Academy is the only school in the nation to fully implement the Ford PAS program as the cornerstone of its high school curriculum. This high tech facility will help us assure that every student leaves high school with the career pathway skills needed to succeed in college and the work place."

"We are pleased to have worked with Davenport University to continue educational use of this important facility. ATA's long-term commitment to Dearborn will help ensure the economic vitality of the East Dearborn business district and expand employment opportunities," Hawthorne said.

He is very excited that the Davenport buildings are pretty much ready for students to move in and start learning.

The academy currently provides employment to over 140 faculty and staff. It is housed in the former St. Alphonsus School at 7265 Calhoun in Dearborn.

Hawthorne said immediate plans call for relocation of high school operations and administration from its current location at Warren and Schaefer.

"This relocation will provide needed space for our elementary school operations as well as to enhance our middle and high school programs

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in science, mathematics and technology, including the addition of a health careers pathway."

The elementary school will stay at the Calhoun Street site while other operations move to Oakman Boulevard.

"The best way to ensure that Michigan's students will succeed in the face of global economic change is to provide a quality education for every child. This facility provides a world-class setting for the acquisition of 21st century job skills," Schneider said.

Advanced Technology Academy is an award-winning public charter school academy serving nearly 1,000 students in grades K-12. Authorized by LSSU, ATA is accredited by North Central Association and offers a curriculum that prepares students for success in college and their chosen fields.

ATA is currently accepting applications for the 2008-09 school year. As a public charter school, ATA is tuition-free and open to any school-age Michigan resident. Applications for enrollment can be obtained by calling the Enrollment office at (313) 582-4500. Additional information can be found on ATA's Web site at [www.atafordpas.org](http://www.atafordpas.org).

ATA is hosting an open house for high school students at 6 p.m. Feb. 27 and at 10 a.m. March 1.



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